

Bourguiba receives Saudi message

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba Friday received a special envoy of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia who delivered a message on the monarch's recent visit to the United States, the official Tunisian news agency TAP reported. The envoy, Sheikh Ali Ibn Musallam, an adviser to the king, delivered similar messages to King Hassan of Morocco, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qaddafi. Arab diplomatic sources said the message was to inform Mr. Bourguiba of what the envoy called President Ronald Reagan's expression of support for the Arab peace plan adopted at the last Arab summit in Fez, Morocco, in September 1982. In a joint communiqué at the end of King Fahd's visit, Mr. Reagan noted there were "positive elements" in the plan, which calls for an independent Palestinian state in areas occupied by Israel in 1967 and implicitly acknowledges Israel's right to secure borders.

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U.N. concerned over S. Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is very concerned about the southern Lebanon situation, but it will take some time before the United Nations can do anything about it, his spokesman said Friday. Mr. Perez de Cuellar has said he cannot redeploy the troops of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in southern Lebanon following Israel's withdrawal of its troops from the area without a request by the Beirut government. So far, this has not been forthcoming.

Dhaka postpones polls nomination date

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's military government has postponed indefinitely the nomination date for parliamentary elections. An election commission spokesman said the government decided to put off the filing, due to end on Sunday, after major opposition groups refused to take part in the April 6 polls. He did not say if the move signalled a postponement of the elections, suspended twice last year under opposition pressure.

Shamir expected in Paris on Monday

PARIS (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir will meet French government leaders here on Monday on the first stage of a European tour to discuss trade relations with the European Community, an Israeli embassy spokesman said. Mr. Shamir was due to confer with President François Mitterrand, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and European Affairs Minister Catherine Lamire before leaving for West Germany on Tuesday. He would also visit the Netherlands before returning to Israel, the spokesman said.

Chernenko misses Kremlin rally

MOSCOW (R) — President Konstantin Chernenko did not attend an election rally at the Kremlin Friday on the advice of his doctors, Moscow Communist Party chief Viktor Grishin said. The official Soviet news agency TASS reported Mr. Grishin's remarks at a rally ahead of Sunday's regional elections. "Viktor Grishin... announced that Konstantin Chernenko would not attend the meeting on doctors' recommendation," it said. (Earlier story on page 8)

50 killed in Air Mali crash

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — An Air Mali Antonov-24 crashed shortly after takeoff Friday from the airport at Timbuktu, killing all but one of the 51 people aboard, officials at the airport's headquarters here said. According to company officials, there were a dozen foreigners aboard the plane, but their nationalities were not revealed. The 50-seat, Soviet-built twin turbo-prop Antonov-24 was on a regularly scheduled flight from Gao, in the eastern part of this Saharan nation, to the capital of Bamako, via Timbuktu and Mopti.

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Israeli premier calls for Soviet resumption of relations and change in Chinese stand

Peres sets conditions for Mideast conference

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres returned to Israel Friday from Bucharest, where he said Israel might reconsider United Nations talks on the Middle East if the Soviet Union renewed diplomatic ties and China changed its attitude to Israel.

Israel's rejection of such a conference, called for by East bloc and Arab countries, has been based on objections that Moscow and Peking, permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, are hostile to the Jewish state. "The minimum we expect from the Soviet Union is to resume diplomatic relations and adopt a (non-partisan) attitude," he told a Tel Aviv airport press conference. In a briefing Thursday night to reporters accompanying him, Mr. Peres said he had urged Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu to try to persuade the Soviet Union to renew ties to Israel cut in 1967. Mr. Ceausescu, leader of the only East European country which has relations with Israel, has long advocated a U.N. conference and has shown an interest in mediating in the Middle East. He saw Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat a week ago.

Asked what Israel would do if there were a change in Soviet and Chinese attitudes, Mr. Peres replied: "We will reconsider our attitude towards the U.N. and the role the U.N. can play."

Mr. Peres said he could not turn directly to the United Nations

because Israel has no diplomatic relations with two of the permanent members of the Security Council — the Soviet Union and China.

"We can't go to the U.N. the way it is," he said in Bucharest Friday.

His aides said Mr. Peres thought it highly unlikely that his conditions for the conference would be met. One said: "Peres is taking the tactic of not saying 'no' to anything."

Mr. Peres, who began his four-day trip in Rome, also held talks with Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, who supported Mr. Peres' stand against an international Middle East conference at the moment. He agreed with Mr. Peres that direct talks between Israel and the Arabs would be more effective.

According to Israeli officials, Mr. Peres and Mr. Ceausescu discussed variations of a U.N.-sponsored peace conference. The Israelis have rejected Soviet involvement, unless the Soviets recognize the Jewish state and allow more Jews to emigrate to Israel. "I told him (Mr. Ceausescu): you must persuade us that the

U.N. can work for peace with impartiality," the Jerusalem Post quoted Mr. Peres as saying.

Mr. Peres quoted the Romanian leader as saying Mr. Arafat was ready for a "negotiated solution." He also quoted Mr. Ceausescu as saying Mr. Arafat "means business" and that "this time he is serious."

Mr. Peres said he and his delegation had encountered "different appraisals" from various leaders but "the topic common to all was whether an international conference could serve as the opening stage for negotiations with Jordan and with Palestinians who are not members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation."

During his visit to Italy, Mr. Peres for the first time publicly declared he was willing to travel to Jordan for peace talks. Before leaving Romania on Friday morning, he received the invitation for His Majesty King Hussein to open talks with Israel.

He said King Hussein could come to Israel "with a Jordanian delegation, and if it's possible with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation — but not necessarily the PLO — to open negotiations without any prior conditions."

Commenting on the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO for joint action for peace in the Middle East, Mr. Peres said: "I don't see the (Jordanian-PLO accord) as an agreement to enable us to open immediately meaningful peace negotiations."

(Continued on page 3)

Masked men set Arab bus ablaze in Gaza

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Masked men, presumably Jewish settlers, armed with a hand grenade set on fire a bus taking Arab workers from the occupied Gaza Strip to their jobs Friday, police said.

Three masked men stopped the bus near the Jaabaliya refugee camp in Gaza. They ordered passengers off the vehicle, doused it with a flammable liquid and set it on fire before fleeing, a police spokesman said.

On Monday, three assailants burned a bus taking Arab workers from the occupied West Bank to their jobs.

Thursday night a firebomb was thrown at a police car in Rafah at the southern tip of Gaza but caused no injuries or damages, the spokesman said.

A home-made bomb exploded in the centre of the occupied West Bank town of Hebron Thursday.

Israel Radio reported that Israeli forces detained several people in the area while searching for the unidentified attacker.

Sources said the bomb exploded near the old bus station, where Israeli settlers have been attempting to settle recently.

In Damascus, a Palestinian group said its fighters shelled an Israeli settlement in Galilee Thursday, killing and wounding many Israelis.

Israelis impose curfew on W. Bank town, page 2

W. Beirut stages strike against soaring prices

BEIRUT (AP) — A general strike brought work to a standstill in west Beirut Friday in protest against the government's failure to curb inflation and currency depreciation.

Schools, shops, restaurants, banks and other businesses were closed; and in some areas youths took to the streets to burn cars. But police said all major crossings between the capital's mainly Muslim and mostly Christian sectors remained open to traffic.

The call for the strike was issued by a conference of consumer representatives and labour unions, who said that the daylong work stoppage was a "warning that will be followed with wider action if nothing is done to curb the rise of prices."

Morocco rejects Algerian plan for Western Sahara

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco has rejected an Algerian proposal to give the Western Sahara internal autonomy instead of outright independence, a high-ranking political source said here.

The source said the proposal was made during two months of secret contacts between Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim and Ahmad Rada Guedira, the king's principal political adviser, in both Morocco and Algeria.

The failure to reach agreement

meant that a summit meeting between King Hassan and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, intended to normalise relations after a rift of nearly 10 years, could not take place in the foreseeable future.

A summit of the five North African states — Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia — proposed by Tunisia is also likely to be postponed as Algeria insists that the Western Sahara issue must be settled first.

Prices have spiralled with the Lebanese pound losing more than 50 per cent of its value since the beginning of the year, falling from nine to 14 to the dollar.

Press reports put inflation for January at 35 per cent, about the total for the whole of 1984, but no official statistics are available.

On Friday, troops and police quickly removed blazing tires and reopened the "museum crossing" as the strike paralysed west Beirut.

Janblatt rules out return to cabinet, page 2



VICTIM OF LEBANESE VIOLENCE: The body of French truce observer officer Paul Rhodes, who was shot dead near Beirut by unidentified men Wednesday, is carried on his colleagues' shoulders to a waiting plane at Beirut airport Friday for transfer to France for funeral (AP wirephoto)

Hussein sends messages to Western leaders

France welcomes Jordan, PLO accord on joint action

PARIS (Agencies) — France has welcomed the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in a formula for common action towards settling the Palestinian problem.

A communique issued by the French External Relations Ministry in Paris said Thursday that the accord, which also envisages a joint Jordan-PLO negotiating team to a future international peace conference on the Middle East, was an important step that would "hopefully lead to the restoration of peace and a peaceful settlement of the region's problems."

The statement followed a meeting at the presidential palace Thursday night between Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and French President Francois Mitterrand. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Qasem delivered to President Mitterrand a message from His Majesty King Hussein dealing with the Jordan-PLO agreement.

5 Sri Lankan policemen killed in rebel blast

COLOMBO (R) — Separatist activists set off a landmine killing five policemen and abducted two government officials in separate strikes Friday in Sri Lanka's northern province.

Official sources said a police sub-inspector and four constables were killed when the jeep in which they were travelling was blown up by a landmine set off by rebels at Pulyankulam about noon.

They said the blast occurred hours after guerrillas kidnapped two government officials, triggering a massive manhunt for the abductors.

They said one of the men, K. Goanachandran, is the government agent of the Mullaitivu district, the highest ranking civil administrator in the area.

The other, Kirupa Thilagan, is additional director of planning in Mullaitivu, the sources added.

An information department statement said the officials were abducted by rebels early Friday morning while travelling by bus to Jaffna, the northern province capital.

Following Friday's incidents, the Sri Lankan parliament extended a nationwide state of emergency for another month.

Parliament decided 126 votes to one to extend the emergency after government spokesmen said guerrilla violence had increased in the north and east.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathumudall said a political solution could not be found to unrest between majority Sinhalese and Tamils as long as guerrillas continued their attacks.

He said the rebels could be defeated only by cutting off supplies

Following the meeting, Mr. Qasem said that he briefed the French president on the latest developments in the Middle East area, Petra said.

The meeting coincided with another between the PLO representative in Paris, Ibrahim Souss, and French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas in which both men were reported to have discussed the agreement and Middle East issues.

Before going to Paris, Mr. Qasem visited Rome where he met with Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and delivered to him a message from the King addressed to president Sandro Pertini on the Jordan-PLO agreement and Middle East issues.

Mr. Qasem also briefed Mr. Craxi on the details of the agreement, which, he said, was designed to contribute to peace efforts, Petra said.

Mr. Qasem also met with Italian

Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti to discuss Middle East issue, and also visited the Vatican where he met senior Vatican officials to brief them on the Jordan-PLO accord.

Italy has welcomed the Jordan-PLO accord and Italian officials reported Mr. Andreotti as telling Mr. Qasem that Italy saw in the latest PLO stand a "sign of a break in the Middle East deadlock."

In Bonn, meanwhile, Coun Minister Adnan Abu Odah met with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and briefed him on the agreement.

Mr. Abu Odah had earlier visited London on a similar mission and met with Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and British Minister of State Richard Leakey.

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri returned to Amman Thursday after delivering a message from the King on the agreement to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Reagan, officials differ over U.S. bases in Greece

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has denied the United States is preparing plans for a withdrawal of military bases from Greece because of growing anti-Americanism there.

But just hours before Mr. Reagan made his denial in a news conference Thursday, two of his top officials told a congressional hearing the administration was exploring alternative Mediterranean locations for the U.S. bases.

Recent criticism of the United States by Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu had prompted the move, they said.

"We are indeed... making sure that if we had to leave (Greece), we would not be in a situation where we would be unable to adjust," said Richard Perle, assistant secretary of defence for international security policy.

Mr. Perle and Richard Burt, assistant secretary of state for European affairs, testified Thursday before the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

Mr. Reagan, in response to a question about the existence of contingency plans to close the bases, said: "We have no plans about any move of any kind."

U.S. officials have said that Turkey, Greece's traditional rival, was being considered as a possible host for the U.S. bases if Mr. Papandreu refuses to extend America's lease past its 1988 expiry date.

In their testimony to the subcommittee, Mr. Perle and Mr. Burt both said that the administration would prefer to keep the four bases in Greece.

Kuwaiti election results reflect surprise changes

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis have chosen a new national assembly opting for surprise changes which diplomats say signal mounting concern over government social and economic policies.

Results announced Thursday for Wednesday's election show that over half the 50 members voted into the next assembly, the only elected Gulf Arab parliament, will be new.

Despite frequent allegations during the election of bribery and other irregularities among candidates, diplomats hailed the government's handling of the polls as "a model of fair play."

Islamic fundamentalists, exceeding the hopes of even some supporters, again won a handful of seats to consolidate the foothold they gained in the 1981 elections.

As expected, conservatives will again dominate the assembly.

But they appear now to include a broader circle of so-called reformists and technocrats prepare to question state policy. A front-runner among these is Jassem Al Khorafi, chairman of the former assembly's finance and economic committee whom diplomats watched as an election "weather-vane" to measure public opinion on state economic policies.

Israelis come under three attacks

JARJOU, Lebanon (AP) — The Israeli army came under attack three times in South Lebanon Friday and killed a Lebanese man in responding to one attack. The occupation force also kept up its siege of the village of Arab Salim for a third straight day. Israeli soldiers and those of their proxy militia, the "South Lebanon Army," blocked the road at this mountain village two kilometres to the north of Arab Salim. A "South Lebanon Army" militia armoured personnel carrier blocked a bridge a few kilometres to the south of Arab Salim. An Israeli lieutenant, who identified himself only as Joey, said at a checkpoint in Jarjou: "Nobody is allowed in. The soldiers have orders to shoot anyone who wants to get into the village," he said. Israeli military sources said a Lebanese man was killed near the village of Deir Mimas, about two kilometres north of the Israeli border, when Israeli soldiers shot back after they were sprayed with small arms.

Death toll goes up in Israeli attacks in Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — A former village mayor died of exposure Friday after Israeli troops kept him and other Lebanese prisoners out all night in the winter cold, Lebanese security sources said.

Israeli troops shot and wounded five civilians, including a woman and two children, in three separate incidents Friday and two Israelis were injured in guerrilla attacks, they said.

The death of former Mayor Abu Hassan Mohammad Ali Jawad in the village of Arab Salim brought to five the toll of Lebanese killed in Israeli raids on six South Lebanese villages Thursday, the sources said. One victim, a woman shot at the Nima-riyeh checkpoint on the Israeli "front line," died of her wounds Friday.

Israeli troops again shot at ears at the checkpoint Friday, seriously wounding a woman and injuring a man, they said.

They also opened fire while defusing a roadside bomb east of Tyre and wounded two children. Local journalist Fadi Al Badran, 32, was also seriously injured in the firing and taken away by the Israelis, the sources said.

Two hours later, north of Tyre, a bomb exploded under an Israeli armoured personnel carrier, wounding two soldiers.

Casualties from another ambush on an Israeli patrol near the sources said. There was no immediate confirmation of the incidents from Israeli officials.

Pedestrians and other people riding donkeys and horses used side-tracks through orange groves to cross the new Israeli "front line" south of Sidon, but came under fire from Israeli patrols, the sources said. No casualties were reported.

Israeli troops and their militia allies destroyed 13 houses and killed three people in South Lebanon Friday.

In Tel Aviv, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Friday that Israel's policy of tough reprisals against resistance forces in southern Lebanon was right and should continue.

"What we are doing in Lebanon is the right policy," he said after returning from Romania.

Mr. Peres rejected pressure to speed up Israel's pull-out because of high casualties. "I think we have to implement our plans and not change them because we are being attacked," he said.

Militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) killed two villagers near Arab Salim, north of Nabatiyeh, and Israeli troops demolished eight houses in the village and detained an undisclosed number of inhabitants, Israeli sources said.

In Deir Qanoun Al Nahr, near the port city of Tyre, the Israeli army shot and killed one and wounded two others who tried to flee the advancing Israeli forces, they said.

The sources said Israeli troops destroyed one house in Tair Debbeh, also in the Tyre area, and detained several people suspected of anti-Israeli attacks.

Four houses were demolished in Zrariyeh and a number of villagers were taken into custody.

Timor Goksel, spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said Thursday French peacekeepers had been sent to Deir Qanoun Al Nahr and Tair Debbeh but there was no word of clashes between them and the Israelis.

The Israelis also mounted house-to-house searches in Bourj Rahhal and Yanouh but did not round up villagers, Goksel said.

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Israeli policy will backfire, Shi'ite leader says, page 2

Operating now

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Egyptian aide to urge active U.S. Mideast role

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's former ambassador to the United States flies to Washington Saturday on a special mission to urge a more active U.S. role in the search for Middle East peace, Foreign Ministry sources said.

They said Ashraf Ghorbal's Washington visit, to precede one by President Hosni Mubarak next month, would focus on pressing the U.S. to look favourably on the agreement between Jordan and the PLO on Feb. 11 on a framework for peace.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and King Hussein agreed to form a joint negotiating team in any future talks.

Mr. Mubarak, whose country is the only Arab state that has signed a peace treaty with Israel, welcomed the accord but said more steps were needed to start negotiations.

Mr. Ghorbal, the sources said,

would also try to rally support in Washington for increased U.S. assistance to Egypt. Cairo, seeking parity with American aid to Israel, received \$2.2 billion a year in U.S. economic and military aid.

Mr. Ghorbal will remain in Washington, to join Mr. Mubarak's delegation in talks with U.S. officials.

Egypt's state-owned media Friday stepped up a strongly-worded campaign for U.S. concessions to Egypt on its aid requirements and on the Arab-Israeli dispute when Mr. Mubarak visits Washington next month.

"Mr. Mubarak is not going to the United States to beg, but to

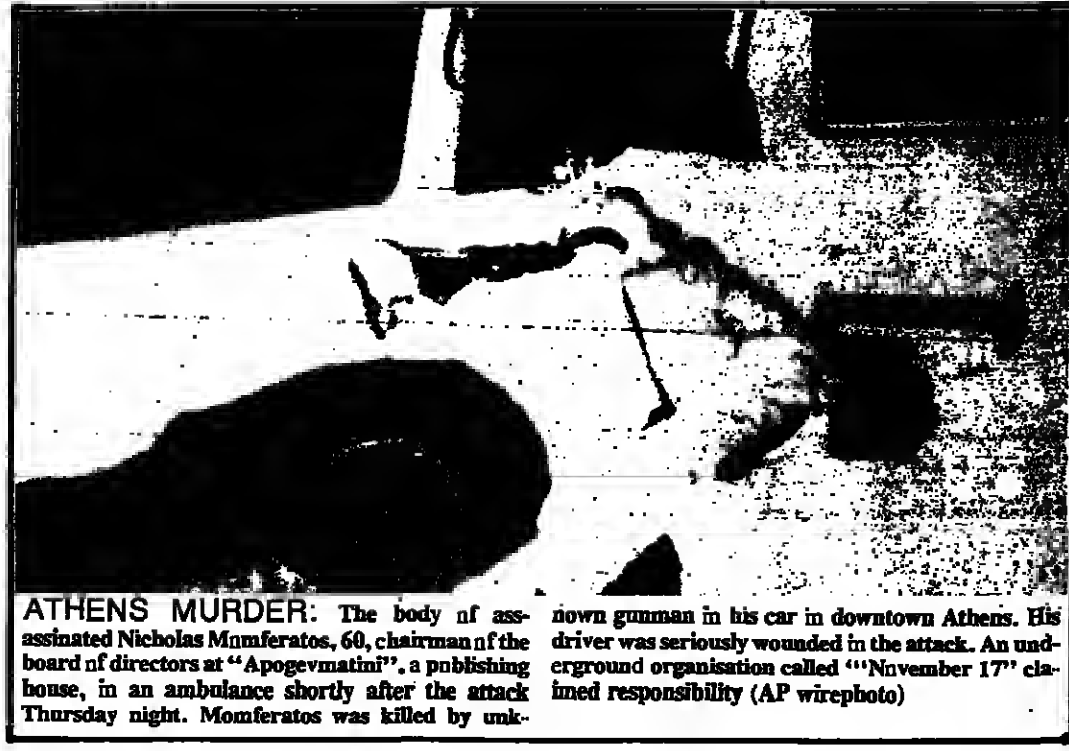
demand our legitimate rights. All our troubles and bottlenecks are a consequence of blind U.S. support for Israel," the mass-circulation Al Akhbar said.

Egypt argues that it deserves parity with Israel as a result of its U.S.-sponsored peace treaty with the Jewish state in 1979.

Al Akhbar said Egyptians might not all agree with Mr. Mubarak on everything, but "we all support him in his U.S. visit. Those are the demands of every Egyptian, not just Mubarak. The Arab people ask for justice from the leader of the free world."

"It is important that the United States press Israel to change its stubborn position on the Palestine Liberation Organisation," the semi-official Al Akhbar said in a front-page editorial.

Al Akhbar also referred to a request that Egypt be exempted from interest on military debts to Washington.



ATHENS MURDER: The body of assassinated Nicholas Mammferatos, 60, chairman of the board of directors at "Apogevmatini", a publishing house, in an ambulance shortly after the attack Thursday night. Mammferatos was killed by unknown gunman in his car in downtown Athens. His driver was seriously wounded in the attack. An underground organisation called "November 17" claimed responsibility (AP wirephoto)

Israeli policy will backfire, Shi'ite leader says

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Deadly Israeli attacks on the South Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim civilian population will only encourage commando ambushes on Israeli troops, a senior Shi'ite militia official says.

Israeli troops and local militia allies raided six Shi'ite villages in South Lebanon Thursday killed three villagers, bulldozed 13 houses and arrested at least 21 people, Israeli sources said.

The raids were the most violent of a recent campaign against the villages, part of a "get-tough" campaign after a wave of attacks against Israeli troops that have brought the Israeli death toll during the 32-month-long invasion to 621.

In Beirut, Akel Haydar, politburo chairman of the Shi'ite Amal militia, said the policy of killings, arrests and destruction of private property in villages near scenes of commando attacks would backfire.

"Israel should know that the resistance in the south feeds on Israel's violence and crimes, strengthening the resistance, not weakening it," Mr. Haydar told reporters.

Brushing newly deployed Lebanese army troops aside, the Lebanese entered the Shi'ite village of Zarzariya. They shot and wounded three people while they rounded up the men, emptied four houses and then blew them up, eyewitnesses said.

Standing in front of the wreckage of his house, a hysterically angry middle-aged man shouted at reporters:

"They kidnapped my children in front of my eyes, then they told us to get out. I wouldn't leave because I built this house, it's all I've got. Then they threw everything out, food and everything, and then they destroyed it."

Junblatt rules out return to 'national unity' cabinet

BEIRUT (R) — Druze leader Walid Junblatt Friday ruled out a return to the "national unity" cabinet and said peace was impossible in Lebanon while the Falangist Party held power.

In an interview with the Beirut weekly La Revue Du Liban, he said cabinet sessions between factional leaders were "useless... a dialogue of the deaf."

He also called Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi a "charming" and "very cultivated" man, and said his Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia received arms from Libya, via Syria.

Declaring "peace is impossible in Lebanon while the Falangist Party is in power," he blamed President Amin Gemayel, son of the Falangist Party founder, for the cabinet stalemate.

Mr. Junblatt has boycotted the cabinet for months. Shi'ite Muslim militia leader Nabih Berri has also begun a boycott and both accuse Mr. Gemayel of stalling on promised reforms to give Muslims more power.

"We completely reject the politics of the Falangist Party, represented by Mr. Amin Gemayel in the government," Mr. Junblatt said.

"It's out of the question (that I attend the cabinet). Collaboration with those people is useless. It's a dialogue of the deaf."

"Some are still living in the middle ages, others are fascists greedy for money and power. As a socialist, I oppose this team," the 37-year-old millionaire Druze chief said.

Mr. Junblatt, who is on a visit to Libya, said: "I receive arms from my friend Colonel (Muammar) Qadhafi and I won't hide the fact that they arrive via Syria."

"The colonel is a charming man. He is known in the Arab World and the West as a terrorist. That's stupid. He has his theories and his ideas and is very cultivated."

Referring to a 6,000-man Multinational Force in Lebanon between late 1982 and early 1984, Mr. Junblatt said U.S. and French "intervention" had put him firmly



Walid Junblatt

in the Soviet camp.

PSP fighters clashed with U.S. Marines in the American, French, Italian and British force. The battleship New Jersey and other U.S. warships bombarded PSP positions, and French warplanes bombed an opposition base in the eastern Bekaa Valley.

"I used to have the illusion of a certain American dream, that brought America close to the world. In fact the Americans are really childish and brutal," Mr. Junblatt said.

"I've opted for the Eastern Bloc for now and evermore. I defend Soviet policies from Afghanistan, to Poland."

The Libyan News Agency JANA meanwhile said Mr. Junblatt signed an agreement with Ibrahim Qoleilat, leader of the Sunni Muslim Murabitoun Movement, during his visit to Libya promising to "adhere firmly to improving the nationalist, pan-Arab and Islamic stand."

JANA, monitored in Beirut, said the two men Thursday night met Libyan second-in-command Abdul Salam Jaloud, who arranged a reconciliation between them after Mr. Junblatt's men beat Mr. Qoleilat's militia in a battle for control of parts of west Beirut last March.

After that accord the Murabitoun took back some positions, but Mr. Qoleilat did not return to Beirut.

ASEC meeting to discuss U.S.-Israeli free zone

TUNIS (J.T.) — U.S.-Israeli plans to establish a free trade zone will be among the main topics for discussion here by the Arab Social and Economic Council (ASEC) due to open its meetings on Saturday.

Also on the agenda are topics that include obstacles impeding the exchange of agricultural products among Arab countries, Arab investments in off-shore zones and facilitating air travel among Arab countries, according to a spokesman for the Arab League where the meetings will take place.

The Jordanian delegation which comprises representatives from the ministries of trade and customs has arrived in Tunis for the meeting.

Also arriving in the Tunisian

capital for the meeting was Mr. Mahdi Al Ubeidi, secretary general of the Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), who said that the council will discuss a number of economic topics of interest to the Arab World, and will hear a report on the CAEU's performance and plans as well as discuss Arab monetary and banking activities.

The Arab regulations for the boycott of Israel and ways to implement them in the face of the projected U.S.-Israeli free trade zone will also be among the topics for discussion, Mr. Ubeidi added.

He said that the resolutions and recommendations of the council will be referred to Arab ministers of economy and trade due to hold a meeting in Tunis on Feb. 25.

Israelis impose curfew on West Bank town

AMMAN (Petra) — The Israeli authorities have imposed a curfew on Halhoul in the occupied Arab West Bank and are reported by conducting a wide scale search campaign following the stoning of Israeli military vehicles on Wednesday.

Reports from the West Bank said that another curfew has been imposed on the Palestinian refugee camp of Balata near Nablus and dozens of people have been detained for questioning.

Near Bethlehem, the occupation forces are reported to

have clamped arbitrary measures on five small towns where homes were searched and troops in military vehicles were roaming the streets.

Reports said that the towns of Housan, Nahhalin, Batiir, Al Khader and Al Ritas have been subjected to the new measures which prohibit the male citizens from leaving their towns.

Reports spoke of hundreds of arrests being made in these towns and men are forced to stand in long queues in severe weather conditions for daily questioning.

Envoy delivers Moroccan message to Washington

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz has had talks with Morocco's new foreign minister, Abdelatif Filali, who the State Department said brought a message from King Hassan.

Spokesman Edward Djerejian told reporters: "We, on our part, welcome this chance to review our bilateral relations with Morocco."

Mr. Filali, who recently assumed the Foreign Ministry post after having been minister of information, is also to have talks at the White House, Mr. Djerejian said.

Morocco is a longtime ally of the United States but relations were strained last year when the North African kingdom entered into a treaty with Libya.

Mr. Shultz told the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs

Committee that the United States had told the Moroccan government of his disappointment over this "unwelcomed development."

He said that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's "aggression against neighbouring states and his undiminished support of terrorism and subversion worldwide are continuing causes of concern."

Mr. Shultz said these concerns had been registered with the Moroccans, and the United States told them it discounted any possibility that the association with King Hassan could be a constructive influence on Col. Qadhafi.

But Mr. Djerejian said that the United States continued to conduct relations with Morocco "on the basis of our mutually perceived needs and interests."

Halefoglou: Cyprus meeting should be well prepared

DOHA (R) — Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglou said Friday careful preparations should be made ahead of a further meeting between leaders of the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities to resolve the Cyprus problem.

He also told a news conference on a three-day official visit to

Ottar that Turkey would continue efforts to find a solution to the 53-month-old Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Halefoglou arrived in Doha Thursday and will go on to the United Arab Emirates Saturday. He visited Kuwait and Bahrain last month and is due to fly to Saudi Arabia next month.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	23:05	Country Music
MAIN CHANNEL	23:05	New Headlines
Morning Programs	24:00	Clock down
06:00	06:00	Sports
06:25	06:25	Children's Programs
06:35	06:35	English Teaching
06:50	06:50	First Aid
07:00	07:00	Korun
07:10	07:10	Cartoons
07:35	07:35	Children's Programs
07:45	07:45	Adults
07:50	07:50	Cartoon Channel
08:00	08:00	Local Programs
08:10	08:10	Programme Review
08:20	08:20	News Programme
08:30	08:30	News in Arabic
08:40	08:40	Arabic Series
08:50	08:50	Special Programme
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	23:05	Country Music
EXHIBITIONS	23:05	New Headlines
06:00	06:00	Clock down
06:25	06:25	Sports
06:35	06:35	Children's Programs
06:50	06:50	English Teaching
07:00	07:00	First Aid
07:10	07:10	Korun
07:35	07:35	Children's Programs
07:45	07:45	Adults
07:50	07:50	Cartoon Channel
08:00	08:00	Local Programs
08:10	08:10	Programme Review
08:20	08:20	News Programme
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hassan congratulates Emir of Qatar

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, sent a cable of congratulations Thursday to the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani on the anniversary of his assuming his constitutional power. In his cable Prince Hassan wished the people of Qatar further progress and prosperity.

Seven people die in week's accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Seven people were killed and 97 others were injured during the last week in 185 road accidents, according to the Public Security Department's weekly statistical report. The report said that Amman had 92 accidents resulting in 42 injuries while the suburbs had nine accidents, Zarka four, Balqa four, Irbid three, Karak nine, Ma'an two, Aqaba five and the desert eleven, the report concluded.

U.N. specialists to study health conditions

AMMAN (Petra) — A United Nations fact finding mission is due here on March 19 to investigate health conditions in the occupied Arab territories. The mission's members will meet with officials at the concerned ministries in Amman and will hear reports about the general health conditions in areas under Israeli rule. The mission, led by a specialist from the World Health Organisation (WHO), is being sent to the area in view of Israel's arbitrary measures against Arab doctors in the occupied territories.

Mufti appointed protocol assistant

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree has been issued appointing Basal Sa'id Al Mufti as assistant to the chief of Royal protocol. Mr. Mufti, who graduated from the Middle East University in Turkey, has been working abroad for the past 20 years and this is the first post he will hold in Jordan.

Arar receives N. Yemeni police team

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar Thursday received a visiting North Yemeni police delegation led by Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Al Ansi. Mr. Arar welcomed the delegation who conveyed to him greetings from officials in the Yemeni security authorities. Public Security Director Lieutenant General Diab Yousef also received the Yemeni delegation and the two sides discussed fields of cooperation between the two countries.

Turkish labour minister due Feb. 26

AMMAN (Petra) — The Turkish minister of labour is due here on Feb. 26 on a three-day official visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials. The minister will meet with his Jordanian counterpart, Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, to discuss bilateral cooperation in labour-related affairs and social development matters.

GUVS elects new board of directors

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Jordan has elected a new board of directors and endorsed a new budget for 1985. The election came at a meeting attended by representatives of 27 charitable and voluntary societies and the Ministry of Social Development. The 11-member board is chaired by Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib.

SSC revenues total JD 113m as investment plans continue

AMMAN (Petra) — Revenues of the Social Security Corporation (SSC) during the past five years totalled JD 113,250,000, of which about JD 40.5 million was collected during the year 1984, SSC Director General Farhan said. Dr. Farhan added that the SSC has spent about JD 11 million during the same period, of which JD 4.5 million were spent in 1984.

Cash surpluses totalling about JD 102 million were available during the period from 1980 to 1984 and these surpluses are being invested in economic and social development projects within the framework of an investment strategy, he said.

SSC investments during the past five years amounted to JD 136 million, distributed among the various economic sectors, Dr. Farhan said. He added that JD 20 million has been invested in shareholding companies and that JD 22 million are invested in hotels and resthouses purchased by the SSC. These hotels are the Amra, Petra and Aqaba hotels as well as 19 resthouses, Dr. Farhan added.

The company also invested JD 17 million in loans and JD 9 million in development bonds in addition to about JD 33 million deposited in banks to pay for the corporation's shares in the various projects and for future investment.

The Tourist Investments Department (TID) of the SSC is now putting the finishing touches to the Dead Sea resthouse and plans to formally open it to the public soon.

The TID will embark on developing the Azraq oasis resthouse as soon as work on the Dead Sea resthouse has been completed. The TID plans to build chalets and swimming pools at Azraq and the mineral spring that have been discovered recently there.

After Azraq, the TID has plans to develop the resthouse at Petra where a library, cinema and children's facilities will be built, and then at Dibbin and Shtefina in the north, which are both visited by tourists and local people in the summer. These projects will be followed by similar ones at Karak resthouse and the Aqaba hotel.

The TID cooperates with other government departments, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and tourist agencies in Jordan.



Minister of Trade and Industry Jawad Al Anani with officials in the Gulf and opening a Jordanian products exhibition in Bahrain (Petra photo)

Zaben opens automatic phone exchange in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — A new automatic telephone exchange, with an initial capacity of 5,000 lines, was opened in Aqaba on Thursday. Minister of Communications Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben opened the new exchange which, he said, can have a maximum capacity of 40,000 lines.

The project cost JD 1.2 million and is part of a comprehensive plan to improve and expand telephone systems in southern Jordan, the minister said. The new

exchange will be of special benefit for the industrial zone along the southern coastal regions of Aqaba, Dr. Zaben said in a speech at the opening ceremony.

He said that the project was financed by a loan from Japan, extended to the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) which undertakes telephone projects in the Kingdom. Several officials and directors of local institutions and the chamber of trade attended the ceremony.

IPA to hold training course for financial administrators

AMMAN (Petra) — The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) will hold a training course for senior financial administrators in government ministries, departments, corporations and private sector companies on March 23.

The course, which will run for one week, aims to improve the skills of financial administrators in the utilisation of manpower resources, financial analyses, multi-purpose financial projects, financial planning and finance resources.

The course also includes the definition of financial management, administration of finance departments, finance administrator's functions and responsibilities, budgets and a review of Jordan's financial and monetary policies.

The course is part of a comprehensive training plan set up by the institute to develop and improve public service practices in Jordan.

AOSM concludes course

AMMAN (Petra) — A 12-day course on documentation and information was concluded here Thursday at the office of the general secretariat of the Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM).

The course, attended by 16 trainees from 16 Arab countries, was designed to develop the participants' skills in the fields of information sorting and documentation.

ALECSO announces Arab culture award

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) has announced the terms of nominations for its 1985 prize on Arab culture.

The award, comprising a \$15,000 prize, a medal and an ALECSO certificate, will be awarded to a contemporary Arab scholar for his works in the field of Arab thought and its cultural and spiritual foundations.

ALECSO stipulates that works from any contestant should be in line with ALECSO aims and objectives, and should help fulfil Arab and humanitarian values. ALECSO set April as the deadline for accepting nominations.

First agricultural show planned for April 17

AMMAN (Petra) — The agricultural materials merchants association will hold the first Royal agricultural exhibition on April 17 at the University of Jordan farm in the central Jordan Valley.

All the agricultural companies in the country will take part in the exhibition to demonstrate the technological and qualitative leap which Jordan has made in recent years in the agricultural field. On display during the week-long exhibition will be various Jordanian agricultural products.

Industry minister returns from Gulf tour

Jordan, Bahrain to increase bilateral trade, Anani says

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Bahrain have agreed to make full studies designed to increase their bilateral trade and Bahrain is expected to import Jordanian aluminium fluoride, Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani said here Thursday.

The minister was speaking upon returning to Amman from visits to Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates where he held talks with officials on bolstering trade and economic relations with Jordan.

During his stay in Manama, the minister endorsed an agreement, earlier initiated by officials from Jordan and Bahrain, on increasing the volume of trade between the two countries especially iron, fertilisers and petrochemicals. He also opened a Jordanian trade fair which was organised by the Ministry of Industry and Trade in cooperation with Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, the Housing Bank and the Arab Bank.

While in Dubai, the minister said he met with a large number of Jordanian and Arab businessmen who expressed their desire to make investments in Jordan's trade, agricultural, industrial, tourist and transport fields.

Returning with the minister were the members of the delegation accompanying him on the Gulf tour.

Peres sets conditions

(Continued from page 1) Mr. Peres said Mr. Ceausescu viewed as a turning point the Jordan-PLO agreement.

Meanwhile, the U.S. administration said Thursday that the two days of U.S.-Soviet talks on the Middle East this week had been "useful in clarifying each side's policies and positions."

U.S. officials said that during the talks, which ended Wednesday in Vienna, the Soviet side raised the idea of an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict, a suggestion the officials called "a dead-end approach."

In a brief statement on the talks, State Department spokesman

Edward Djerejian told reporters: "As we said in advance, we were not attempting to reach any agreements or understandings."

"The meetings, nevertheless, were useful in clarifying each side's policies and positions."

Mr. Djerejian said the talks, the first between the United States and the Soviet Union on the Middle East in more than seven years, were conducted in a businesslike atmosphere and that no follow-on meetings were planned.

The two sides discussed the Arab-Israeli dispute, Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war, officials said.

Death toll goes up in Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

People in nearby Maarakeh blocked roads with burning tyres to deter the Israelis from entering, security sources said.

In Beirut, the Foreign Ministry Thursday asked Lebanon's delegate to the United Nations, Rashid Fakhoury, to lodge a complaint with the Security Council over Israel's arbitrary practices in occupied territory, official sources said.

U.N. observers have protested to Israeli officers in the south

about the manhandling of villagers, and the United Nations last week protested to Israel over a fight between French and Israeli troops.

Christian and Muslim leaders met in Sidon Thursday to discuss the Israeli army raids and said the Lebanese army, brushed aside in the incident, should have taken a stronger stand.

"This shows the army must be strengthened to carry out its duty of preserving the liberated land," the leaders said in a statement.

Cultural centre, theatre in Jordan need urgent help, RCC official says

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman is facing a critical financial problem which needs an urgent solution from concerned government officials in order to enable the RCC to continue offering cultural events as well as keeping its cultural standards, according to Mr. Hani Snowbar, the assistant director of the RCC.

Mr. Snowbar has recently returned to Amman after representing Jordan at an international theatre conference in London. Jordan was the only Arab country invited to attend this specialised conference.

Mr. Snowbar told the Jordan Times that the conference tackled issues concerning the problems faced by cultural theatres and centres and ways of solving these problems. The conference also discussed ways in which cultural theatres and centres could be supported.

The Jordanian working paper presented during the conference dealt with the problems that the RCC is facing. One of these problems Mr. Snowbar said is that the British company responsible for building the RCC and for the ultra-sensitive equipment installations has "proved its lack of experience in constructing theatres." He said: "The Company did not take into consideration

that such a project was to be constructed in Jordan, and the RCC building turned out to be a closed complex." Such a closed complex, Mr. Snowbar said, has created problems for ventilation and heating. "We are unable to open any window in the RCC building. We are paying a high bill for electricity, water supply as well as for fuel in order to preserve the ultra sensitive technical equipment we use in our productions and displays", he added.

Wasted space

Another problem of the RCC building, Mr. Snowbar continued, is the extraordinary vast space used for corridors, salons and waiting areas. On the other hand, he added, the main theatre lacks an adequate number of seats, especially since the main theatre at the RCC is the only available theatre stage for professional shows in Amman.

Mr. Snowbar went on to say that the seminar discussed the administrative and financial situations at the cultural centres and theatres and it was shown that 80 per cent of the theatres and cultural centres budget in developed countries comes from their governments and the remaining 20 per cent is covered from theatres, restaurants, cafeterias and ticket sales. The governments of the developed countries also offer moral support through donating prizes to out-

standing artists and technical staff, he said.

During the conference, Mr. Snowbar added, a programme to exchange expertise and consultants and to offer training courses for personnel in theatres and cultural centres was discussed in an attempt to support theatres and cultural centres. Such programmes will be organised in collaboration with British cultural centres throughout the world and the cultural centres and theatres in each of the twenty seven countries which participated in the international theatre conference, in London, as all of these countries have problems and need expertise exchange, he said.

England will be sending consultants and experts to visit the RCC to try and solve some of the design problems and fuel, electricity and water expenses. Mr. Snowbar said that the British Council in Amman will sponsor this activity and the British experts will work with the Jordanian technicians and consultants at the RCC in order to solve design problems and to think of ways in which electricity and fuel expenses could be cut down to a minimum.

The British Council in Amman has also sponsored some of the administrative and technical staff working at the RCC by offering training courses in such fields. Some of the staff are currently attending British colleges and educational institutions.



Hani Snowbar

Mr. Snowbar described the cultural situation in Jordan for the year 1985 as "a vacuum or theatre drought", due to the fact that 1985 budget is crucial and priority will be given to other sectors. As proof of the critical theatrical and cultural situation, Mr. Snowbar said that an agreement with Director of the Department of Culture and Arts Haidar Mahmoud, myself and three other persons concerned with cultural events standard, has been signed which states that 12 plays are to be performed this year at the RCC, and that Jordan Television was to record the plays and present each of the twelve plays on a monthly basis under the title "Play of the Month".

No budget

He said: "The Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities promised to assist by offering JD 1,500 for each production through the Department of Culture and Arts. To my surprise, and upon my return from England, I discovered that the agreement has been cancelled due to the lack of an adequate budget to finance such a cultural event."

Mr. Snowbar added that RCC's theatre group and theatre activities are suffering financial problems which are hindering the RCC from presenting plays. He added that Jordan has been invited to the International Theatre Show to be held in San Francisco this summer and that the RCC was requested to present a play in Arabic. "But the tragic situation is that we don't even have money to buy tickets and to cover our travel expenses to such an international event in which 62 countries will be participating," Mr. Snowbar said. "Also, the RCC does not have a

budget to stage a competitive play meeting the professional international standard of such an international event," he added.

Mr. Snowbar urged the government, the public and local institutions to offer the RCC both financial and moral support. He said: "The RCC promises and challenges that it is capable of staging productions on the professional and international standard if JD 40,000 is donated to the centre. Let people of the government give us a one year try out and we will prove ourselves and the standard of the plays we can stage."

Another solution presented by Mr. Snowbar, is that if a donation is given to the RCC on a loan basis, the RCC could stage plays and Jordan Television could record them and export them to outside markets and the revenues would be so much that RCC could pay back the loan, raise the standard of local plays to the professional standard and thus there could be a theatre movement of which Jordan could be proud.

Too many actors

Mr. Snowbar criticised the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities decision to open an acting institute which started functioning in early February. "The RCC is offering training to all the actors who are participating in theatre shows, whether these participants are professionals or join on a hobby basis. The RCC is teaching participants in all fields of theatre arts to join any play production. Therefore, the budget allocation for the acting institute which is somehow "quite big", could be used for supporting the three governmental theatres, the Palace of Culture, the Department of Culture and Arts theatre and the RCC," he said.

Mr. Snowbar added that the acting institute should be stopped immediately, especially since no feasibility studies were conducted to test the need for such an institute. Also, Mr. Snowbar said that Jordan has reached a state of self-sufficiency in terms of theatre actors and that a lot of Jordanian technicians are attending training programmes for theatre and a number of Jordanian students are pursuing their university education in theatre arts, production and direction. "What we really lack is proper organisation and supervision on money spending," he said.

Mr. Snowbar also said that all

the RCC needs is a moral support from the public to revive the cultural and art movement in Jordan. "Jordanians should encourage plays through attending local productions and private institutions and companies as well as the public could offer donations to upgrade the theatre movement in Jordan," he said.

Mr. Snowbar added that three factors govern the success of a proper theatre movement in Jordan: the standard of plays and actors, continuous theatre productions and raising theatrical awareness in Jordanians as well as financial support.

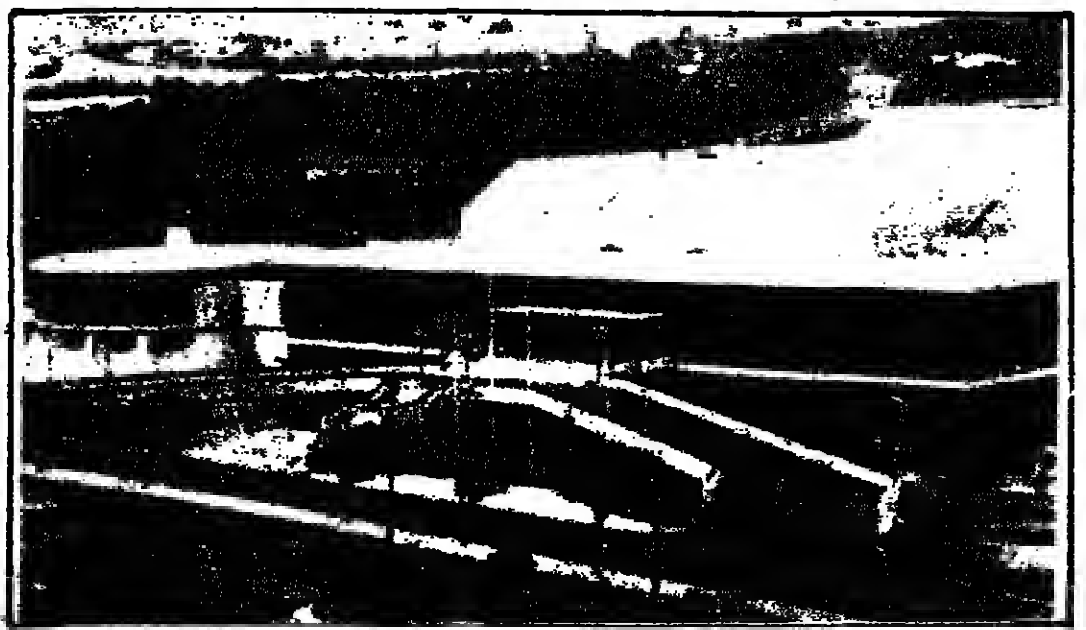
If these three aspects are fulfilled, Jordan could reach a developed stage of theatre arts and cultural production, he said. As an indicator to this, in 1973, an average of 7,000 audience used to attend a play that was on show for one week, nowadays a one week show attracts an average of 700 audience.

Surviving 'by a miracle'

He pointed out that the current programmes offered at the RCC, such as plays for children and adults, music shows, art exhibitions and ballet and music courses are surviving "by a miracle", and that such activities are subject to a negative change if the RCC budget is not increased. Mr. Snowbar stressed the fact that the RCC's theatrical shows aim to raise the level of awareness in the theatre audience. "We are cautious to stage shows which the audience need, not what they want," he said.

Asked why Jordanians attend foreign plays more than local plays, Mr. Snowbar said that Jordanian citizens are still suffering from "an inferiority complex" regarding anything foreign to be better than the local item. Added to this is the fact that foreign actors and theatre directors themselves participate in advertising their shows as well as selling tickets. Therefore, Jordanian actors and directors and producers should campaign for their plays and promote the selling of tickets, he said.

Mr. Snowbar insisted that the RCC and other cultural centres are not asking for a full expenses coverage but rather a great participation which could be increased through the selling of tickets and company donations to save theatre in Jordan from "a collapse".



The Royal Cultural Centre in Amman which, according to some experts, suffers from poor design quality. The centre is also threatened by a financial crisis (J.T. file photo)

WATER AUTHORITY ANJARA - KUFRINJA WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECT

CONTRACT No. K2/55/85

1. The Water Authority invites experienced contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan and contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who have been pre-qualified as general and first class water and sewerage contractors and general class roads and buildings contractors by the Ministry of Public Works of Jordan to submit bids for the supply and construction of the Anjara - Kufrinja Contract K2 Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection System. Non-Jordanian contractors are encouraged to associate with qualified Jordanian contractors. The project consists of the supply and construction of about 24 km of water mains ranging in diameter from 80 mm to 200 mm and of about 4 km of galvanized pipes ranging from 12" to 18" and supply and construction of about 35 km of sewer mains ranging in size from 150 mm to 400 mm and storm water facilities and protection works.
2. A prebid conference will be held on Saturday March 23rd 1985 beginning at 9:00 hours at the office of the Water Authority.
3. On March 23rd 1985 contractors or joint ventures shall submit in a sealed envelope in person or by mail the information on the firm or firms of the joint venture requested in the instructions to bidders. The information will be evaluated and contractors will be informed whether or not to submit a bid.
4. The bids are due no later than 12:00 noon, Jordan local time on Saturday April 6th, 1985 at the office of the Water Authority.
5. Contract documents may be examined and purchased at the following address:

Water Authority
Jabel Hussein
Nabulus Street
P.O. Box 2412
Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 666111
Telex: 22439 WAJ JO

The cost of the initial copy of the contract documents purchased by a bidder is JD 100 per set, and the cost of any additional copies of the contract documents by a bidder is JD 50 per set. No refunds will be made for the return of full or partial sets of contract documents. Copies of the contract documents will be sent to prospective bidders by the Water Authority upon receipt of the proper amount in a bank check.

President
Engineer M.S. Kilani

Amman has its blend of rainy days



Talking straight
Marwan Muasher

FOR THREE days last week, it rained and snowed in Amman. We have not had much rain this season, so nature must have thought we needed some compensation. I had mixed feelings about the whole affair, however.

For one thing, the invitation I had from a friend to spend the weekend at his farm in Ghor was cancelled. Not being someone who is fast at reacting to unexpected events, I woke up Friday morning with little to do except watch those big drops of rain washing down my weekend.

I called Omar. His mother was cooking "Mouloukha", which seemed more appealing to me than the fish my mother was frying. Uncharacteristic of me (I am usually very polite), I rudely invited myself over. I either caught my friend off-guard, or he was too polite to say no. Of course, there was

always the possibility that he really wanted me over for lunch. Whatever the case, I made it to his house through the fog and the muddy streets, but only after I made him promise to tell his parents that he invited me to lunch.

After consuming a healthy portion of Mouloukha, and chatting with his parents about the weather, we sat down to drink a cup of tea and watch a video-movie. Somehow, though, the conversation drifted back to the weather.

"It's about time we had this rain", Omar started. "The country was really in trouble, and I hope the rain is not too late to save the season".

I really was in no mood to hear this, especially from my friend. It is not that I did not appreciate the importance of rain to us, rather that I was looking at the whole thing from a somewhat different angle.

"I really don't want to sound ungrateful," I told Omar, "but it seems to me like we have always been told of the benefits of rain that we never stopped to think of some of its bad side-effects".

I could tell Omar was getting annoyed at my attitude. I was in a bad mood, though, and had no intention of cutting short whatever I intended to say. Before he had a chance of translating his indignation into words, I went on.

"Rain in Amman had wiped out all the beautiful images I had about it. I read in stories about raindrops falling down on two loving couples walking down a forested lane. In my dreams, I almost smell the fresh scent of rose buds awakened by a continuous supply of fresh water. Up in the sky, I see a rainbow promising dreams as colourful as itself. And then I drive down to your

house amidst pools of water, with splashes of mud thrown at me by passing cars, insisting on decorating my windshield. The holes in the street serve to remind me of its recent completion, but not until giving me and my car a thorough beating. I am sorry to say it, Omar, but I find Amman in rain too gloomy. It gives me such a depressing feeling that does not motivate me to do any productive work".

It was obvious at this stage that I had just committed blasphemy. Omar, trying to keep his voice down (I was a guest at his house, after all) went on to point out how selfish I was, that I was living in a dream-world, that I was completely out of touch with reality, and blind to all the goodness rain brings because of a few small inconveniences. How on earth, Omar wondered, was society ever to progress if people like me kept eating to their ind-

ividual needs, and forgot those of society?

I was not diminishing the importance of rain, I countered back. I said that everything has two sides to it, even rain, and that I was as much entitled to my opinion as he was. I told him he could not prevent people like myself from disliking something just because everybody else says the opposite.

The conversation took a philosophical turn from that point on, and after a lot of arm waving and voice duelling, exhaustion made us reach the conclusion that whatever views we had on rain will not change its concrete existence.

It was 4 p.m. by that time. Our voices slowly went down, and even the raindrops that were vehemently knocking on the window panes seemed to subside. Whatever was bothering us seemed to have started to fade away.

After a two-hour tussle made possible by a good video-movie, the conversation drifted to other subjects.

I told him about my job, and the troubles I was facing. Omar complained about the economy, and wished for a better year than the last one. We talked about our social lives. Omar said he did not have time for a lot of social activities, and was spending a lot of evenings at the office. He seemed particularly frustrated at not having much time to get his mind off work. I told him about some basketball coaching I was doing for eight year-old kids, and the enjoyment I was getting out of it.

We talked about high school days, and laughed again at stories we must have recalled for the fiftieth time. We wondered again how that good-for-nothing classmate of ours made it so big while we were

still struggling.

We talked a bit about politics, and offered each other nothing more than too familiar judgments we had memorised from newspapers.

And of course, we talked about girls, dating, marriage and the sort.

By then, it was nighttime. I was very happy to have had this opportunity to spend some time with Omar. It brings home a feeling of closeness one often takes for granted.

We watched the eight o'clock news on TV. Nothing was particularly interesting or new.

I put on my coat, thanked Omar and his family for a lovely time (and lunch), and headed for my car. I barely missed a shower of mud, courtesy of a speeding car, before I jumped in my own and started driving home.

It was still raining.

JTV Channel 6 Review

Technical gremlins and left-over salad

By John Boteler

IN THE words of the old song: "I've been walking around with my head bowed down to the ground". And why? Shame. The reason for my shame: duff info. There you were, last Wednesday, eagerly awaiting the first episode of a new comedy series, followed by a documentary on Alfred Hitchcock. And what did you get? A documentary on China, followed by "The Gift of Laughter". All very entertaining, no doubt, but if you had been prepared properly beforehand, you would have been equipped with a pair of chopsticks and a funny hat, rather than nervously wondering if you shouldn't replace the shower with a bath. Then again, two Thursdays ago the feature film turned out to be not "Boy On A Dolphin" starring Sophia Loren, as promised, but a real emotion-churner, "Black Market Baby". This particular change was probably all for the good, remembering what I wrote about "Dolphin" but for this column it was still a case of "close, but no cigar".

Why is television viewing such an uncertain occupation? There are several reasons (though the defamatory accusation that it's all my fault, I refuse absolutely and with scorn). Sometimes, of course, programmes are replaced at short notice by political or state events, which is thoroughly understandable and correct. At other times a programme becomes available at the last moment which ties in with a topical event or subject, and such was the case with the China documentary last Wednesday; which day, for the elucidation of those who don't know, was the Chinese New Year. (And for any oriental viewers, may I belatedly say: "Sin nyen q-uai!")

But by far the biggest cause of programme re-scheduling is technical. One would assume that when Jordan TV announces a new series such as, for example, "Murder She Wrote" (Fridays, 9:10), they have a healthy stock of different episodes waiting in the vaults. This is not so. Their spools often only dispatch two episodes at a time, which generally arrive barely a week before their scheduled screening. These then have to be processed by the engineering department, (to say nothing of sub-titling, and for this hard-working body of individuals it's necessarily a case of "wait your turn"). Then, all too often, it's discovered that the actual tape quality is simply not acceptable — or such as appalling sound quality or hopeless synchronisation — even that the new tapes are exactly the same as those shown for the two weeks previously! To the case

of feature films there are the added hazards of their being supplied on the wrong size tape, or of the print in question being so old that it could only be screened under the title: "Snowstorm at Midnight".

Another reason for programmes not making it to our screens is unacceptable contents, in that they offend moral standards or common decency, and are generally just not quite "come in fair". All these various hazards increase as the end of a programme cycle approaches, as is now the case. A couple of comedy shows have lost, let us say, three episodes between them because of content. A batch of films have been effectively halved because of technicalities, and as one JTV representative ruefully said to me: "scheduling begins to resemble a leftover salad".

So where does all this leave us? I don't know if "Murder She Wrote" was on last night, or if it will be next week, while next Thursday's feature film is a matter of deep mystery. In all, but come on, eh? It's not as bad as all that. Tonight for example, the episode of "Tales of the Unexpected" is "People Don't Do Such Things" starring the gorgeous Samantha Eggar, as Gwen Carter, whose marriage to Terence is blown to pieces when she falls passionately in love with one of her husband's clients. He's dashing young writer called Reeve Bacon, who has two big problems in his life — money and women. This story of revenge and jealousy was originally written by Ruth Rendell, an expert in dark passions and even darker psychology, so it promises to be excellent. The film at 10:15 is "The Diary of Rikie Brockman" in which a special investigator, in tandem with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), is on the trail of both the head of an insurance company and a mysterious disappearing man.

Tomorrow kicks off at 8:30 with "Don't Wait Up". But I hear you ask, didn't I say that last week's episode was the last? So it was — of the first series. This is episode one of the second series, a totally different thing altogether. Will Tom find true love with Madeline? Will his father make it up with Angela, his wife, or will he settle down with his golf clubs? Will they all manage to defeat the evil lawyer Sir Harvey Cramer? All will be revealed (maybe, eventually). At 9:10 it's happy hour again, with the fourth episode of "Crime Inc." Now this is a programme that could be termed morally offensive in toto. But that's the nature of your friendly neighbourhood mob. Last week's

episode starred California's genial Ray Ferrito, hit-man. "I took care of that problem by taking him out to the airport and shooting him in the head" confided Ray levelly. But his greatest hit came in accounting for awkward Danny Green of Cleveland with a well-placed car bomb. Mr. Green's arm was shown reposing in a car park, quite unattached to Mr. Green. Mr. Ferrito had gone out and done the job. He was, for the time being, a winner. But for how long? Mr. Ferrito was quite philosophical that one day the Mafia would kill him. He seemed quite unconcerned, as befitted one whose response to the question as to whether he had any remorse over killing Danny Green was, "To me it was like having a glass of wine; it didn't mean a thing to me... A man with a conscience doesn't last too long on the streets". No, indeed. But one without a conscience can be out on those streets soon after a lengthy conviction, as in the case of Lucky Luciano, who was gaol for thirty five years, back in Sicily in seven, and masterminding a heroin trade in America that is flourishing today. But if you think that is just, you can, to use an Americanism, tell to the man in the street. Specifically those marines who first landed in Sicily in the World War II. That was the deal — Luciano's freedom for safe landings in Sicily. Likewise, whatever the future holds in store for him, Ray Ferrito is also a free man. But that was his price, for supplying the information that goaded the entire top brass of the Cleveland Mafia family: a fair exchange if you ask me, even though your lawyer described them as "gentle souls, just misunderstood." Tomorrow's episode is "The Birthright of Mobsters". Organised crime controls or influences virtually all of America's gambling institutions, both legal and illegal. From the street lotteries to the casino palaces of Las Vegas and Atlantic City, New Jersey, the stamp of the Mafia cannot be eradicated.

At 10:15 there is the second episode of "Scarcecrow and Mrs. King". On last week's evidence, this is going to prove most entertaining, especially if future episodes slow down the action just a little bit. Kate Jackson gave Amanda just the right mixture of wit and commonsense, while I'm sure that Bruno Buxton (I) who plays Lee was the assistant in the first episode of "Remington Steele", a series which this promises to emulate in more ways than one. Especially as this week's episode, "There Goes the Neighbourhood", has our heroes posing as a married couple, checking into a quiet suburban home and finding out that it's a hotbed of international intrigue — and

lethal hairdryers! Romance must surely be in the air soon, and the days of Dean, the vague blond glimpsed in the shadow, as Amanda's swain as surely numbered.

Last week saw the end of "Maggie Briggs" and the superb comic interplay of Maggie and Walter. This Monday at 8:30 it is replaced by "Duty Free", a comedy about two couples on holiday in Spain; Amy and David Pierce, and Linda and Robert Cochran. Apparently when Amy agrees to spend David's redundancy money on a package holiday in Spain, she doesn't allow for the effects that travel, the exotic Mediterranean and Linda will have on her husband — especially Linda! At 9:10 there is episode two of "Sorrell and Son". Sorrell arrives to take up a post as porter at the Pelican Hotel, to which he has been recommended by the owner, Mr. Roland. He soon tangles with Buck, the head porter, and later is dealt a shock when his wife reappears. This week's episode of "The Yellow Rose" is "Chains of Fear" (10:15). Quisto, Chance and Colleen purposely join a slave-labour work-camp and risk their lives to rid the Yellow Rose Ranch of a neighbouring hell-hole. Stirring stuff.

Tuesday at 8:30 has "Star of the Family", which this week deals up another indigestible helping of lead-flavoured candycorn when Fieldman gets injured in a fire and is invited home by Buddy to look after him and his children. He should have invited Ray Ferrito. But perhaps mindless pap of this sort is best when it's in preparation for "Teakoe" at 9:15. If you thought last week was harrowing, you ain't seen nothing yet. What happens in this episode is simply too horrible: I'd rather not talk about it. Then at 10:15 "Hardcastle and McCormack", are on the trail of yet another criminal gang. Why? Because Hardcastle was such an incompetent judge, that's why.

Wednesday has the (delayed) first episode of "Up the Elephant and Round the Castle" with Jim Davidson, whose "dream life in his own house is plagued by tradesmen and friends such as Radio Grimes, who brings Jim sharply in touch with reality. At 9:10 there's part two of "The Gift of Laughter", which hopefully will be heavy on film clips and light on fatuous chatter, and at 10:20 there's "Hotel". The winners of this week's prize of a brief and traumatic stay at the St. Gregory are a family of Christian Scientists, which means they will have nothing to do with medicine or doctors. So of course, the daughter has a heart attack; and their moral dilemma will be as nothing compared to that of the staff, who have to cope with flashing brilliant sm-

les and looking concerned all at the same time.

Thursday has the ever dependable "Three's Company" at 8:30, in "Make Room for Daddy". It looks as if Jack leads a swinging life, what with Janet clad only in a slip, Larry proffering a date with twins, and Cindy casually kissing him. Jack apologises to the visiting father of his latest girlfriend, but he turns out to be not appalled, but envious. So Jack offers quick tips on how to be a romantic middle-aged lover. Dad promptly sweeps Janet away to a candlelit rendezvous from which Jack tries to rescue her.

I have as yet only seen episode one of "Lytton's Diary", so it's a bit early to comment, but after a slow start the opening instalment had a nice sting in the tail with Neville's editor getting just what he deserved. His skulduggery even seemed to appall Lytton, of whom his chief editor said, "Lytton was born to do what he's doing. He wouldn't recognise a scruple if it felt on his head". This week's episode from the street of shame is entitled "Diplomat in Business Furor", and as a special bonus, it stars Jordanian actor Nadim Suwailha (whose brother, Nabil is a leading actor and cultural figure in Jordan). Hamil, an Arab diplomat, is involved in a shady deal with a prominent MP named Westaway — or at least that's what he tells Lytton over a luncheon appointment. He also tells him to expose Westaway for the crook he really is. But Lytton isn't so sure. He only has Hamil's word on the matter, and a lot more must be discovered before a bona fide story can emerge, which scraps are all the more praiseworthy after Lytton's own assessment of himself. "I don't believe anything I read in Private Eye, unless I wrote it myself — and then I know it's not true".

Friday at 8:30 has "Open All Hours" where the delivery of a surplus consignment of ginger cake poses a literally unsolvable problem for Arkwright. But a disconcert word to the right direction about the misadventures of the cake brings the customers flooding in. And at 10:15 there's "A Long Way Home", the last episode in the current series of "The Onedin Line". Although out of prison, James' troubles are not over — he has lost a great deal of his business. He decides to gamble everything on a nitrate concession in South America, but Margarita insists on accompanying him on the year-long journey. He instructs Captain Baines to push the ship hard, hoping that by the time they reach the Azores, she will want to return home. But this is not to be — and many surprises are in store for James before his



Samantha Eggar stars in "People Don't do Such Things" — Tales of the Unexpected — Saturday 8:30 p.m.

voyage is complete.

Finally, there's a good selection of English-speaking programmes on Channel 3. Anyone who finds "Star of the Family" as bad as I do should watch "Gimme a Break" (Monday 6:10). It concerns itself with the same situation, a father trying to bring up a family by himself. But, oh, the differences. Good, witty scripts, fine acting all round, and a true-to-life and uncompromising approach to the problems that arise in such a situation. On Tuesday's at the same time there is "Trauma Centre". This week, "Out of Control". Does Lou Ferrigno go berserk?

But the highlight of the week on the Arabic Channel must surely be episode one of a series that will entertain both young and old alike — "Moonfleet". Honour and loyalty, treachery and skulduggery, desperate skirmishes between smugglers and revenue men, the lurking ghost of the infamous "Blackbeard" Mohune, and the legendary Mohune diamond — all these are the ingredients of John Meade Falkner's stirring tale of mystery and adventure set in the eighteenth century. In the tradition of its famous forerunner

"Treasure Island" (by Robert Louis Stevenson), "Moonfleet" has come to be enjoyed and loved as one of the genre's finest examples. Now the eerie twilight atmosphere of Falkner's book is skillfully re-created in this new dramatisation.

Director Colin Cant says of Moonfleet: "The tale is clearly split between heroes and villains, good and evil. What is interesting is that the heroes certainly can't be described as the traditional sort because the book is written from the smuggling point of view. The heroes break the law but the tone of novel is highly moral." At the heart of the story is the Dorset village of Moonfleet, a small unprosperous fishing port whose two hundred or so inhabitants rely more on smuggling than fishing for their survival. Set in a time when men and boys were hanged for no more than being caught with a barrel or two of brandy, it vividly depicts the hardship and hypocrisy that existed in villages like Moonfleet where for many poor men smuggling was the only means of making a living. The series was filmed on location in Dorset and in the Isle of Wight and is

visually stunning with a feast of magnificent land and seascapes. Moonfleet village (actually Fleet) had undergone too much change to be a suitable location, but a specially constructed version of the original was used in its place. A strong cast of characters includes Elzevir Block, landlord of the Why Not Inn, the feared and hated magistrate, Maskew, his despised step-daughter Grace, who nevertheless proves to be a loyal friend to the young hero John Trenchard.

Episode one opens with a thrilling night-time skirmish between the smugglers and revenue men on Moonfleet beach. A shot rings out and a boy falls dead, callously killed by Mr. Maskew, the local magistrate and owner of the Manor of Moonfleet — a man obsessed with catching the smugglers — and Elzevir Block vows vengeance as he buries his only child. No-one really believes the legend of "Blackbeard" Mohune and his lost treasure until one day when John Trenchard is crossing the churchyard and discovers the entrance to a tunnel. Despite technical gremlins, there surely must be something to enjoy this week!

Moses' Burning Bush stands tall in Sinai

By Hanna Handawi
Reporter

ST. CATHERINE, Egypt — Behind the walls of the austere monastery of St. Catherine, the "Burning Bush", said to be the one from which God spoke to Moses, stands tall and upright, blooming with deepgreen, healthy leaves.

Few tourists venture to the Sinai Desert peninsula to see the spot where, according to the Bible, Moses heard God's voice before he led the Jews on their exodus from Egypt more than 3,000 years ago.

During the Israeli occupation of the Sinai, from 1967 to 1982, Israelis flocked to the picturesque sites. But even with the Israeli forces gone, few Egyptians or foreigners make the trip to the "Burning Bush" at the foot of Mount Moses, some 330 kilometres from Cairo as the crow flies.

In an effort to expand tourism beyond the favoured sites such as the pyramids or the Nile, the government's Department of Antiquities has launched a campaign to restore ancient Egyptian, Coptic and Islamic monuments.

Hoteliers on the peninsula complain of shortages of drinking water, irregular flights from Cairo, backward telephone links and lack of investment. They say the government must pump more cash into the region to improve facilities and attract tourists.

Local bedouins in the St. Catherine area insist the "Burning Bush" is the one seen by Moses although it was at one point transplanted and now grows within the monastery walls.

On the original spot nearby, a church — the chapel of the burning bush — now stands. The bush itself, richly-covered with small, oval-shaped leaves, is tall and upright against a three-metre wall but

surrounded by iron railings. All efforts to grow one like it have failed, local residents say.

According to the Bible, as the bush burned, God bade Moses take off his shoes for the place where he stood was holy ground. Now, a sign nailed to the railings asks tourists to refrain from picking its leaves.

The Greek Orthodox monks of St. Catherine have been here for more than 1,400 years, since they fled to the Sinai wilderness from persecution by the pagan Romans. Their lifestyle remains unchanged, with bread and water still their basic diet.

Tourists allowed to visit the monastery, nestling in a hollow beneath a ring of mountains, may hear one of the 25 monks exchange a few words of Greek with a "Jebalya", a member of a local bedouin tribe. The Jebaliyas serve the monks and are said to be de-

cendants of 200 slave families brought here from Alexandria and Anatolia in the ninth century to do so.

Many of the tourists who come here nowadays make the punishing four-hour climb up Mount Moses with local guides, setting off at midnight to reach the peak in time for sunrise.

The Egyptian Department of Antiquities also hopes to attract tourists further up the Sinai to the tiny Pharaoh's Island, at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba.

It is to begin a \$300,000 restoration of a 12th century castle built on the island by Saladin as a fortification against the Crusaders and now almost in ruins.

Hoteliers and tourist operators, however, say the renovated castle will not be enough to draw tourists to the remote area and they demand more government expenditure.

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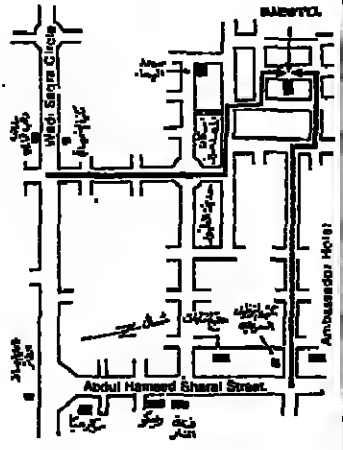
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Egyptian football federation urges ban on foreign players

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's Football Federation has urged the government to cancel a ban on foreigners playing for Egyptian football clubs due to be enforced next season.

Federation officials said its executive, at the request of African Champions' Cup holders Zamalek, agreed this week to ask the Supreme Council of Sports and Youth to change its mind.

Zamalek manager Ahmed Rifaaat told Reuters he wanted to keep striker Emmanuel Quarshie of Ghana with his team when they defend the African title won last December.

Some sports critics say the sports council has imposed the ban on foreign players on a reluctant federation.

Rifaaat doubted the powerful state body would be swayed, seeing only "an off-chance that they may change their mind."

Abdoul Saleh Al Wahsh, manager of Egypt's National side, favoured the ban saying foreign players overshadowed young Egyptian talent and it should apply for two to three years. He told Reuters clubs with foreign signings would suffer but it was in the long-term interest of Egyptian soccer.

Beside Quarshie, a big help to Zamalek last year, the handful of foreigners in Egypt's first division includes Cameroun's Antoine Bell, arguably Africa's top goalkeeper.

Bell and Ghanaian midfielder Abdul-Razzak, another African star name, are both with Arab

Contractors who won Africa's Cup Winners' Cup in 1982 and 1983 then fell on lean times last year but are now bidding for a comeback.

Al-Masri, a first division side without a single title in 60 years, has two Iranian players. They are Ebrahim Ghazmpoor and Abduraza Barzgerai who said they planned to leave at the end of the season regardless of any fresh ruling on foreign players.

Signed last May by Al-Masri of the Mediterranean city of Port Said, they came to Egypt after a ban on foreign players ended their spell with club sides in the Gulf state of Qatar. Both former internationals, the Iranians told Reuters they were currently negotiating contracts with 2nd division clubs in England, France and Belgium.

Asians set to dominate Paris judo

PARIS (R) — An Asian team boasting five Olympic champions looks like dominating the inaugural Inter-Continental Judo Championships here on Sunday.

With the American and African continents still largely undeveloped as judo areas only Europe seems able to provide the Asians with stiff competition.

But the European team contains some surprises. Neither of the two top West Germans, light middleweight Frank Wienecke and light-heavyweight Gunther Neureuther, who won gold and bronze medals respectively in Los Angeles, will be present.

Britain's Olympic silver medalist Neil Adams was chosen in preference to Wienecke. But Adams has since withdrawn through injury and his place has been taken by Olympic bronze medalist Michel Nowak of France.

Neureuther was passed over for Robert van der Walle, the Belgium former Olympic champion, even though Neureuther has won both of their last two contests.

Otherwise selection of both the European and Asian teams has followed form.

Two Russians, Khazret Tietseri and Nikolai Solodouchin, and the Italian Ezio Gamba, a silver med-

allist in Los Angeles, represent Europe in the three lightweight divisions.

Peter Seisenbacher, Austria's Olympic Champion, fights in the middleweight category, and Angelo Parisi, the French Olympic silver medalist, is Europe's heavyweight representative.

The Asian team's Olympic champions are Shinji Hosokawa (Japan) at bantamweight, Yoshiaki Matsukawa (Japan) at featherweight, Byoung-Keun Ahn (South Korea) at lightweight, Hyoung-Zoo Ha (South Korea) at light heavyweight and Hitoshi Saito (Japan) at heavyweight.

Portugal, West Germany meet in World Soccer Cup qualifier

LISBON (R) — Injury-hit West Germany could lose their proud unbeaten record in World Cup qualifying matches when they meet Portugal on Sunday in a Group Two match which promises to be one of this year's great soccer clashes.

Portugal, group leaders with six points from four games, delighted soccer purists in last year's European Championships and their

morale received a timely boost two weeks ago from a 3-1 qualifying win over Malta.

West Germany, the most consistent European side of the 1970s, have recently lost their air of invincibility and manager Franz Beckenbauer has yet to find the team which will guarantee the 1974 cup winners a berth in Mexico for the 1986 finals.

The team had already lost mid-

fielders Uwe Rahn and Norbert Meier before they flew to Lisbon, and Friday Beckenbauer revealed that his captain Karl-Heinz Rummenigge is extremely doubtful for Sunday's game because of influenza.

Rummenigge and Rudi Voeller, top scorer in the domestic league, had shown their power by scoring six goals in a 9-0 win over a Portuguese second division side this week.

Pierre Littbarski will probably replace Rummenigge but despite the winger's welcome return to form, Portugal know that West Germany without Rummenigge is only running on half power.

Portugal also build their play around their centre forward, Porto's Fernando Gomes, the top scorer this season in European club soccer with 26 league goals to his credit.

Connors into quarterfinals

LAQUINTA, California (R) — Top seed and defending champion Jimmy Connors had to push himself Thursday to reach the quarterfinals of a \$375,000 men's Grand Prix tennis tournament.

Connors, 32, beat fellow American and 10th seed Brad Gilbert 6-4, 6-2.

He squandered a commanding lead before taking control in the seventh game and going on to win the first set, 7-5, jumped to a 2-0 lead in the second set before Connors asserted himself and won the next six games for the match.

"I missed some shots I shouldn't have, but I made them when they counted," Connors said.

Connors next faces American Greg Holmes, who reached the quarterfinals by upsetting sixth-

seeded Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia, who first had to finish a match with Todd Nelson that had been delayed by rain Wednesday. "I didn't play well against Holmes," Smid said. "The delay had nothing to do with it."

In another upset Larry Stefanki beat 12th seed Scott Davis 6-1, 6-4. In the quarterfinals Stefanki will meet Tarik Benhabiles, France's newest Davis Cup team member who beat Russell Simpson of New Zealand 6-2, 6-3 to advance.

In the third upset of the day Libor Pimek of Czechoslovakia downed eighth seed Jose Higueras of Spain 6-4, 6-4. Pimek faces Briton John Lloyd. Lloyd beat American Ben Testerman 6-4, 6-0.

Schultz upsets Sadri

TORONTO (R) — Bud Schultz, playing in only his fourth Grand Prix event, upset seventh-seeded fellow American John Sadri 6-7, 6-2, 6-4 Thursday night to advance to quarterfinals in the \$125,000 Toronto Challenge Grand Prix.

The match developed into a shootout between two booming servers with Schultz finding the key to handling Sadri's rockets by the eighth game.

At the end of the match Schultz showed great composure by not panicking when, serving at 5-2, he failed to close out the match and then squandered a matchpoint in the next game.

"I was nervous. It's only my fourth Grand Prix and it's hard not to think about winning the match before you actually go out and do it. I may have gotten ahead of myself a little bit."

The two men had played three weeks ago in Memphis, Tennessee, where Schultz won his first Grand Prix match, defeating Paraguay's Victor Pecci.

Schultz and his coach had mapped out a winning strategy this time around. "Once I broke him, I

knew I was going to be in the match. So even though I lost the first set, I knew I was doing the things that could beat him."

Earlier in the day top-seeded Anders Jarryd of Sweden, screaming obscenities in three languages about what he said was poor officiating, rebounded from a first-set deficit to beat Mike DePalmer of the United States 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

At 4-4, 40-40 in the final set, Jarryd was finally given a warning for verbal abuse.

Four points later, after yelling another obscenity at a Grand Prix supervisor, Jarryd succeeded in unsettling DePalmer to the point where he lost his service and then the match.

"Usually I don't get so mad as I was today," said Jarryd, who was later fined \$500 for his actions. He also has had similar outbursts in earlier play here.

Unseeded Polish veteran Wojtek Fibak took advantage of Paraguay's Francisco Gonzalez' erratic play, advancing 6-1, 4-6, 6-4. Third-seeded South African Kevin Curren outmuscled Paul Annacone 7-6, 6-3.

Jazirah wins Jordan Cup

AMMAN (Petra) — Al Jazirah soccer team Friday won the Jordan Cup by defeating Al Ahli 1-0 in the final which was played at the Al Hussein Youth City stadium.

Minister of Youth Hani Khasawneh, deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, presented Al Jazirah with the Cup.

Attending the match was some senior government officials and a large number of soccer fans.

Hilal calims Valley race

SALT (Petra) — A 20-kilometres cross country race held in the Jordan Valley Thursday was won by Mohammed Hilal from Mafrqa. The race was held under the patronage of Minister of Education Hikmat Saket.

Over one hundred students, representing all schools in the country participated in the race. The winner covered the distance in 34 minutes.

Monaco Grand Prix reinstated

PARIS (R) — The International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) announced Thursday that the Monaco Grand Prix would be reinstated in the World Championship calendar and would be held on May 19 as scheduled.

FISA's decision came after extensive bargaining earlier this week between the International Automobile Federation (FIA), FISA's parent body, and the Automobile Club of Monaco (ACM) which was seen as a first step towards settling the long-running dispute between the two bodies.

On Monday the FIA general assembly gave Monaco until March 2 to fulfil the federation's demands to avoid expulsion from the organisation.

India wants '92 Olympics

NEW DELHI (R) — India wants to stage the 1992 Olympic Games in New Delhi, sports minister R.K. Singh said Friday.

He told reporters the government was examining how much it would cost to hold the games, but intended competing against countries like Britain for the Olympics.

"We are a serious bidder," he said.

India already has a number of stadiums, built for the 1982 Asian Games.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi,

before he became India's leader, was the driving force behind the staging of the Asian Games, personally supervising many of the arrangements.

India, with close links to East Europe and developing nations, is likely to gain wide international support for staging the games.

Singh hinted that as a first step the government planned to streamline the administration of sports in India. There are frequent rows among overlapping sporting bodies over who controls individual sports.

FIFA moves to settle World Cup matches dispute

ZURICH, Switzerland (R) — The International Football Federation (FIFA) confirmed the dates for the two legs of the African second round World Soccer Cup qualifier between Angola and Algeria.

Angola had disputed the original dates which had the first leg in Luanda on March 31 and the return in Algiers on April 19, claiming that the Algerians had taken a unilateral decision on the dates.

The Angolans appealed to FIFA, the governing body of world football, for a ruling.

FIFA's press spokesman Guido Tognoni told Reuters: "We have examined the points in dispute and decided that the original dates will stand."

"We have also looked at a protest from Sudan that the Libyans intended to play the return leg of their World Cup qualifier in Libya on March 8 on an artificial surface."

"We have upheld the Sudanese protest. According to the regulations the match must be played on natural turf," he added.

Amman Little Leage

Basketball Scores - Feb. 22

Juniors

Volvo 28
Goodyear 18
Ericsson 26
Intercon, 19

Grindlays 10
Peugeot 2
Al Ahlya 17
Volvo 12

Mids

Cairo-Amman 21
Arab Wings 27
Chase Manhattan 17
Cairo-Amman 27

American Express 20
Marriott 12
Int. Traders 14
Lego 13

Seniors

Jordan Express 36
Astra 33

Foxboro 31
Holiday Inn 11

Adults

Laing 56
ACS/Marriott 77
ACS/Marriott 79
Yanks 48
Elba 35

Froggies 38
Elba 50
Froggies 27
Odd'n Ends 35
Froggies 35

The League ended Friday and the final standings were as follows:

Juniors

1. Intercon, 2. Ericsson 3. Goodyear 4. Volvo 5. Peugeot 6. Al Ahlya 7. Grindlays

Mids

1. Cairo-Amman 2. American Express 3. Arab Wings 4. Int. Traders 5. Chase Manhattan 6. Marriott 7. Lego

Seniors

1. Jordan Express 2. Foxboro 3. Astra 4. Holiday Inn.

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Reagan says U.S. seeks no advantage in Star Wars plan

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has said that he would be willing to discuss with the Soviet Union how to make sure the United States did not get any unilateral advantage from its Star Wars missile defence plan.

Mr. Reagan told a televised news conference the United States was only engaging in research on the so-called Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

He said that if the research threatened to alter the U.S.-Soviet strategic balance, "then I would be willing to come forth before any deployment and negotiate and discuss the deployment and use of that weapon in such a way that it would be used to rid the world of the nuclear threat, not to give us any particular advantage over anyone else."

He said the United States believed the Soviet Union was sincere in saying it wanted a reduction or even elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Reagan said the United States would continue to abide by current arms control treaties but that in several months the administration would have to decide whether to "join them (the Soviet Union) in violating restraints."

Meanwhile a senior U.S. defence official has said President Reagan's Star Wars anti-missile system could be deployed in Western Europe to counter Soviet missiles without violating a 1972 U.S.-Soviet treaty.

Fred Ikle, under secretary for policy, added in testimony to the Senate Armed Services Com-

mittee that this could help spur a U.S.-Soviet reduction of European-based missiles.

Mr. Ikle told the committee the ABM (anti-ballistic missile) treaty only restricted defences against intercontinental missiles, so a Star Wars defence against shorter-range missiles was immune from its prohibitions.

Defence officials have said parts of the system could be deployed as they are developed without waiting for completion of the full system.

Meanwhile a leading Soviet strategist was Friday quoted as saying that if the United States insists on proceeding with its planned Star Wars missile defence system, it will wreck next month's arms talks.

Georgiy Arbatov, head of the Institute of the United States and Canada, said in the Yomiuri Shi-

mun newspaper that if there was no agreement on space weapons at U.S.-Soviet talks starting in Geneva on March 12, there would be no agreement on intermediate range nuclear missiles.

The talks between the two superpowers would cover strategic weapons, intermediate range nuclear missiles and the militarisation of space, he said in an interview.

The United States and the Soviet Union together have 50,000 nuclear warheads and even if a defence system was 99 per cent effective, 500 warheads would survive, Mr. Arbatov said.

Mr. Arbatov, a member of the Communist Party's Central Committee, said the Soviet Union did not need to develop its own version of the SDI because such a system could be thwarted more cheaply by building more offensive missiles.



Konstantin Chernenko

Chernenko stays away from key meeting

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko, ailing for the past two months, did not appear Friday to deliver a major speech he was due to make in the Kremlin.

Earlier Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the party chief would not reappear after nearly two months' absence to address a traditional Kremlin rally on the eve of elections to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

"He will not be there today in the Kremlin. That is official" the spokesman said.

He said he expected that a speech would be read out in the party leader's name at the Kremlin meeting. He declined to give further details.

Western diplomats had regarded Friday's event as the most important scheduled appearance on Mr. Chernenko's calendar since he last appeared in public on Dec. 27.

"If he misses this, it will be clear to ordinary Russians that the leader is out of circulation", one Western European diplomat said.

The 73-year-old president has failed to appear at a series of events since he cancelled a trip to Sofia in early January.

Officials have told Western visitors and correspondents that he is ill and resting outside Moscow. Senior Western diplomats say they believe Mr. Chernenko is seriously ill.

Reports circulating among informed Soviet sources in Moscow say Mr. Chernenko is suffering from circulatory complications stemming from a chronic respiratory ailment.

The Soviet people have not been given any word of the leader's state of health, a subject that is strictly taboo for the state-controlled media.

Lange tells Moscow to stay out of ship row

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange Friday told the Soviet Union not to meddle in his country's row with the United States over warship port calls.

Mr. Lange told Reuters he had called in Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Bykov to tell him in a 10-minute meeting "that New Zealand is not to be used as some sort of ammunition in an anti-Reagan administration campaign."

New Zealand has banned warships with nuclear capability from using its ports, a policy which brought cancellation of ANZUS pact naval exercises which were to have been held next month by the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

Mr. Lange said he had made clear to Mr. Bykov that "New Zealand is an unshakable member of the Western alliance and that our policies are not directed at any of our traditional friends."

He said he also told Mr. Bykov he was "personally tired" of having New Zealand's nuclear ban "misreported and ... misrepresented" in the Soviet Union.

"Our policy is not designed for applause ... in the Soviet Union

and that is the message which I delivered to him," Mr. Lange said.

The Soviet media have repeatedly praised Mr. Lange's Labour government and condemned its conservative predecessor since the introduction of the nuclear-free policy early this month.

Mr. Lange said that U.S. pressure on New Zealand over the ban may ease after arms limitation talks restart in Geneva next month.

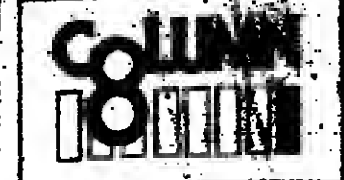
"I expect it will all settle down after the resumption of the talks," he said.

He added that few countries had supported U.S. foreign policy more consistently than New Zealand and it was "just not credible to see us alienated."

The prime minister said New Zealand was in a unique strategic situation and its nuclear policy was not designed for export.

Mr. Lange is due to meet Reagan administration officials in Los Angeles on Tuesday during a brief stopover in the United States en route to Britain.

In Britain, he will meet British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who Thursday condemned the New Zealand ban.



Iran banishes drug addicts to Gulf island

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has banished 500 drug addicts with police records to a colony on an island in the Gulf, Tehran Radio has reported. The colony was set up last year to wean drug users from their addiction. Its location was not been given.

Screwdriver 'found' in man's head

CANNES, France (R) — Doctors in Cannes could scarcely believe their eyes when a routine X-ray of a man complaining of headaches showed an 18-centimetre screwdriver embedded in his skull. On further investigation, they found the tool was not in the man's head — but in the X-ray machine where it had been left by a careless technician, hospital sources said.

Heart transplant woman who had baby, dies

SAN DIEGO (R) — Betsy Smith, who made medical history last year when she became the first heart transplant patient to have a baby, died aged 24, a hospital spokeswoman said. Smith was taken by helicopter to a hospital at the University of California at San Diego after complaining of chest pains. She apparently died of cardiac arrest, the spokeswoman said. Smith gave birth to a girl weighing 3.2 kilograms last September, four years after receiving a man's heart in a transplant operation. Some doctors had been concerned that a male heart would not stand the strains of pregnancy, when woman's heart expands.

U.S. wins trespassing suit against Indians

WASHINGTON (R) — The Supreme Court has ruled in favour of the government in a trespassing suit against two sisters of the Shoshone tribe who grazed their cattle on land used by the Indians for a century. The tribe sold the land to the government several years ago but has not yet received payment. In its suit, the government accused Mary and Carrie Dunn, middle-aged sisters who live on a ranch in Nevada, of trespassing by letting their cattle graze on the land without a permit. The government acknowledged that the tribe once held title to the 5,200 acres of Nevada desert but argued that the land was now in the public domain. The Supreme Court ruled that the Shoshone claims lapsed in 1979 when the government deposited \$26 million in an interest-bearing trust account in payment for the land. Congress has yet to approve payment of the funds. A federal appeals court ruled in 1983 that the tribe holds title to the land until the Indians receive the money. The Supreme Court reversed that decision.

Donald Duck's voice dies

LOS ANGELES (R) — Clarence Nash, the squawky, belligerent voice of cartoon character Donald Duck for 50 years, has died of leukemia, a hospital official said. He was 80 years old. Mr. Nash, known to his fellow workers at Disney Studio as "Ducky," also supplied voices for such cartoon characters as a bullfrog in "Bambi," dogs in the film 101 Dalmatians, and, at times, Mickey Mouse and Jiminy Cricket. Nash, who died at Saint Joseph's hospital on Wednesday, opposite the Disney Studio, used to joke: "I wanted to be a doctor and ended up the biggest quack in the world." He was performing animal imitations as an advertising stunt for a milk company when he heard the Disney Studio was looking for animal imitators. He was just delivering his talking goat voice in an audition at the studio when Walt Disney, the studio founder, declared: "That's our talking duck." Nash said when he told his wife, Margie, he had a new job, she replied: "That's great, but it probably won't last."

Jailed women take staff hostage

ILOPANGO, El Salvador (R) — Prisoners at a Women's jail in El Salvador briefly took nine staff hostage Thursday after they were reported to have shot and wounded three inmates while quelling a protest. Justice Ministry officials said the hostages were released after Justice Minister Manuel Francisco Cardona went to the prison in Ilopango 18 kilometres east of San Salvador to discuss the prisoners' grievances.

Soviet defence minister urges more vigilance

MOSCOW (R) — Marshal Sergei Sokolov, the new Soviet defence minister who replaced the late Dmitri Ustinov two months ago, called Friday for increased vigilance in defence of Communist gains.

He made his first major public pronouncement since his appointment in an article in the Communist Party daily Pravda.

Marshal Sokolov, 73, attacked U.S. plans for developing a space-based anti-missile defence system but said Moscow was ready for business-like arms control talks.

"The complicated present-day international situation, which is shaped through the fault of reactionary imperialist circles, necessitates a heightening of the Sov-

iet people's vigilance and of their readiness to rise, arms in hand, at any time in defence of Socialist gains," he wrote.

"The United States and its NATO allies do not abandon attempts to ensure military superiority over the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact countries."

Marshal Sokolov, whose appointment was announced last Dec.

22, has been a professional soldier for more than 50 years. He has often dealt with foreign countries seeking to buy Soviet arms.

He does not, however, have the same lengthy background in civilian politics as Marshal Ustinov, who before his death at the age of 76, ranked in the upper levels of the ruling Communist Party politburo.

Indian prime minister to tour five countries

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi will visit France, Algeria, the United States, Egypt and Switzerland during a 15-day tour in June, the government announced Friday.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesman Salman Haider said Mr. Gandhi, India's youngest ever head of government, would visit the United States, France, Egypt and Algeria at the invitation of their presidents.

He is scheduled to go to Switzerland to address the International Labour Organisation on June 18 in Geneva, the official said.

Mr. Gandhi, 40, would inaugurate government-sponsored festivals on Indian art and culture in France and the United States.

Officials said Mr. Gandhi was likely to tour the Soviet Union — India's main supplier of military hardware — in May but the official announcement on the trip would be made later.

The announcement first of the visit to the United States, which would follow the Moscow trip, was seen as a move to balance the new government's approach toward the two superpowers.

Western diplomats have voiced hope that Mr. Gandhi would shift India's orientation a bit away from the Soviet Union.

He has indicated his government is ready to follow a more liberal economic policy than his mother and predecessor, Indira Gandhi.

According to the itinerary announced by Mr. Haider, Mr. Gandhi will visit France June 6-10, Algeria June 10-11, the United States June 11-15 and Egypt June 16-17. He flies home from Geneva June 19.

Meanwhile the 17 men accused of involvement in India's biggest spy scandal since independence were sent to jail by a judge on Friday to await trial.

The alleged spies, who include several officials of the prime minister's office and presidential secretariat, were sent before Magistrate Bharat Bhushan at the expiration of the earlier order remanding them to judicial custody.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, meanwhile, said the spy scandal was "not that bad" and involved mostly industrial espionage. Few defence secrets were leaked, he said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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USE YOUR LUCK

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH
♠ 8643
♥ A Q J 9
♦ 6 2
♣ 8 6 5

EAST
♠ Q 10 7 2
♥ 7 6
♦ A Q J 10 9
♣ K 9 7 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 5
♥ Q K 8 5 2
♦ K 8 5 3
♣ A

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass
4♥ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

The opponents don't always get off to the best lead—if you know anyone who claims he does, he is either given to terminological inexactitudes or his methods should create suspicion. But don't give back any advantage you might have gained from the opening lead.

Four hearts was a perfectly normal contract to reach. South needed little more than heart support from partner to have a good shot at the contract.

West got off to the second best lead of a club. Declarer won in hand, crossed to the table with a trump

and led a diamond to the king. West took the ace and seized the opportunity to lead a trump. Declarer played another diamond, but West won and returned his last trump. Since declarer could ruff only one diamond in dummy, he ended up losing three diamonds and a spade.

When West did not find a trump opening lead, declarer was a tempo ahead of the game. All he needed to make his contract was to ruff two diamonds on the board. At trick two, declarer should simply have led a diamond from hand.

The defenders can win and shift to a trump, but declarer is a move ahead. He wins and leads dummy's last diamond. Although the defenders can lead another trump, dummy still has two trumps to take care of declarer's diamond losers.

Declarer has more than enough aces to his hand in the A-K of spades and club ruffs to ruff both losing diamonds and get back to draw the remaining trump.

How should declarer play at duplicate? That is a close question. The contract is normal, and if the one of diamonds is outside, you can make an overtrick. In addition, even if the ace of diamonds is wrong, you still make the contract if trumps are 2-2 or if the defender who wins either the first or second diamond doesn't lead a trump. It is just about worthwhile to go for the overtrick.

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Sloppy controls give U.S. secrets to Soviets

WASHINGTON (R) — The Pentagon and other U.S. agencies are allowing military and technical secrets to slip into Soviet hands by inadequately checking documents before they are declassified, the Washington Post has reported.

The Post said Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige sent a letter last month to five of President Reagan's top officials warning about "this massive giveaway programme that permits the Soviets to acquire tens of thousands of scientific and technical studies as well as other strategic information."

The four-page letter, a copy of which was acquired by the Post, was sent to Secretary of State George Shultz, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, NASA (space agency) Administrator James Beggs and Former Energy Secretary James Hodel.

A spokesman for Mr. Baldrige said the commerce secretary had no comment on the Jan. 16 letter.

The Post said that among the documents that had been declassified without adequate security checks were Pentagon analyses of space weapons, chemical warfare, nuclear weapons, computer security, high technology, electronics, computers and lasers.

The potential danger to our national security is that through the giveaway programme the Soviets have access to studies and strategic information covering much of the same type of technologies and products that the administration is trying to keep out of Soviet hands through the multilateral export control system."

The orders were served after several hundred members of the front staged a picnic in the Kanak stronghold of Thio last Sunday, which ended in clashes between police and stone-throwing Kanaks in which 11 people were injured.

A Gendarmerie captain has been ordered back to France and Defence Minister Charles Hernu has ordered an inquiry into how the settlers were able to cross a police cordon to enter Thio.

Americans, Japanese meet on Iwo Jima

TOKYO (R) — Forty years ago they were trying to kill one another, but this week 30 American and Japanese war veterans met in peace on Iwo Jima, a Pacific island which saw some bloodiest fighting of the World War II.

The invasion of the island by two U.S. Marine divisions, supported by three battleships, cruisers, destroyers and three aircraft-carriers ended with more than 8,600 American attackers and 19,400 Japanese defenders dead.

The island is tiny, only 20 square kilometres in area. But for more than a month the outnumbered Japanese held back the Marines, hiding in a burrow of tunnels and defying long range naval guns, tanks and flamethrowers.

Their resistance ended about five months before Japan's surrender and their commander

committed suicide. This week's reunion was organised by Japan's Association of Iwo Jima, headed by Kozo Wachi, who served as Japanese commander of the island before the battle.

On the beach where the first Marines came ashore, old soldiers listened in silence as an American Christian priest and a Japanese Buddhist prayed for the souls of the dead.

The Americans, with wives and families, arrived at the island — now a major training base for the postwar Japanese Navy and Air Force — aboard five U.S. military transports from an American airbase near Tokyo. Japanese military transports brought the Japanese.

Waiting for them was a stone monument ready to be unveiled, a gift from the Japanese association

and the family of the late American Actor John Wayne, who played a heroic role in the 1949 Hollywood movie The Sands of Iwo Jima.

Its inscription, in English and Japanese, reads:

"On the 40th anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima, American and Japanese veterans met again on these same sands, this time in peace and friendship."

"We commemorate our comrades, living and dead, who fought here with bravery and honour, and we pray together that our sacrifice in Iwo Jima will always be remembered and never be repeated."

Iwo Jima, returned to Japan by the U.S. in 1968, lies 1,200 kilometres south of Tokyo. It stands like a sentry in the sea with its high mountain providing a threatening landmark to enemies approaching Japan from the south.